

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle relates
"a great heathen Army" landed in
East Anglia, soon to settle. They
conquered the city of York, which
they called JOR VIK. Under almost 100 yrs
of Viking rule, York prospered and
grew as a center of international
trade. There the Vikings became
Urbanites. They laid out

city streets, minted silver coins and
mass-produced the necessities of life -
combs from deer antlers, leather shoes.
The Vikings conquered 3 of England's 4
kingdoms. Only Wessex escaped.

By the 10th century, nearly half
of England lay under Viking dominion.
An area called Danelaw that extended
to the border of Scotland.

865

871

AETHELRED (King of Wessex 865-871)

Son of AETHELWULF and brother of Alfred.
He succeeded his brother AETHELBERT as
King of Wessex and overlord of Kent
& possibly of East Anglia. Aethelred
spent much of his short reign gathering
forces to oppose the Danes, who had
occupied York (866) and ravaged
much of England. Alfred was his
important second in command in a series

of Watts (870-871). Although Aethelred
had young children, Alfred succeeded
him in April 871 as better fitted to
defend the Kingdom.